

## STARS AT RICHMOND THEATRES THIS WEEK



## PLAY BILLS FOR THE WEEK, ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Monday—"Sherlock Holmes."  
Tuesday—"Otis Skinner, in 'The Honor of the Family.'"  
Wednesday—"Peggy from Paris."  
Thursday—"Peaceful Valley."  
Friday and Saturday, matinee Saturday—"Way Down East."

## BIJOU.

All the week, with the usual matinee, Blaney's melodrama—"From Sing Sing to Liberty."

## BY E. BRUCE CHESTERMAN.

The Academy will not be dark any night this week, unless some company should cancel its date here between now and Saturday. One can never tell these days. The season has only just begun, yet four companies have failed to fill time booked at the Academy. Manager Jake Wells predicted this before the season opened. The railroads of the South have abolished the "party rate," so that theatrical companies now have to pay the full fare. This has caused many companies to cancel their Southern time, and the dates have been canceled at very short notice, a condition of affairs which has caused the Academy management some little annoyance and inconvenience. In one instance, that of the engagement of "The Highwayman," the money had to be refunded to the purchasers of tickets. There is nothing that hurts the feelings of the treasurer of a theatre so much as to have to give back money after it has once passed into his hands, and the feelings of the Academy treasurer were hurt last week.

The week at the Academy opens with "Sherlock Holmes," a play which William Gillette, by the exercise of sagacity, elevated to a position considerably above ordinary melodrama. Had some of the other playwrights who belong to the order of thrillers, gotten their hands upon Conan Doyle's story, "Sherlock Holmes," would have been a different creation. Gillette, however, had the ingenuity to devise certain mechanical effects, and to stage the piece that it had little appearance of a melodrama, according to the definition of the majority of theatregoers.

Sherlock Holmes, as a character, has a certain amount of fascination for an audience. There is perhaps no trait that so inspires the spectator to admiration as the possession of nerve in an unusual degree. The crowd looks up to the man who never loses his self-control or presence of mind. The exercise of necessary caution is no doubt the better part of wisdom and is a safe plan to follow, but it doesn't cause unusual comment. It is a characteristic which too many of our possessors. To "keep your head," while apparently the most natural thing in the world to do, is yet one of the most difficult. Sherlock Holmes always keeps his head. He moves about with an easy unconcern, as to consequences that is sometimes exasperating. It is true, he has a habit of diffusing in his system a certain amount of cocaine, and, therefore, he is not altogether responsible. This habit, however, makes him all the more interesting to the spectator.

"Sherlock Holmes" will be presented at the Academy to-morrow night, with all of the mechanical effects which have contributed so largely to the success of the play.

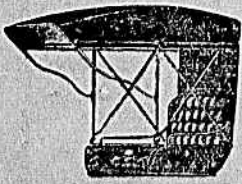
## Otis Skinner's New Play.

Otis Skinner comes to the Academy Tuesday night in a new play, which is an adaptation of Balzac's "Menage de Garcon." It has been done in France, and Charles Frohman secured the alien rights to the play, and entrusted the adaptation to Paul M. Potter. Such alterations were made as would make the piece effective, with the American public. Mr. Frohman chose as the title of the play, "The Honor of the Family." The action of the piece transpires in a quaint French town, during the Bourbon regime, immediately after the fall of Napoleon. In an old mansion lives Rouget, a sexagenarian celibate, who has for his

SPECIAL NIGHT TRAINS, ELBA TO ASHLAND, ACCOUNT EPISCOPAL GENERAL CONVENTION AND RICHMOND HORSE SHOW, R., P. & E. R.

To accommodate those returning from the Episcopal General Convention services and the Richmond Horse Show, special train will leave Elba Station for Ashland and intermediate points 10:45 P. M. daily, October 1st to 5th, inclusive, and 11:45 P. M. daily, October 7th to 12th, inclusive. All tickets, including commutation card and book forms, will be honored on these trains without additional charge.

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housekeeper, Flora Brazier, a most beautiful woman. Max Gilet, a commandant under Napoleon, arrives in the town, and Flora promptly falls in love with him. She succeeds in having him installed in the Rouget household, and once he is established in the mansion, the two lovers commence to plot to gain control of the property. About this time there arrives on the scene Philippe Bridau, a lieutenant-colonel under Napoleon. He is a nephew of Rouget, and in him Flora recognizes an adversary. A most unexpected climax is brought about by a duel between Philippe and Max. Otis Skinner in the role of Philippe Bridau, is said to have a part that admirably suits him. Miss Percy Haswell is his leading lady. Both Mr. Skinner and Miss Haswell are very popular in Richmond, and the production of Tuesday evening promises to be one of the most notable of the week.

## "Peggy from Paris."

George Ade's musical comedy, "Peggy from Paris," will be the offering Wednesday night. The piece has scored well in New York, Boston and Chicago, and other large cities in which it has been presented. The music was written by William Lorraine, and is of the kind that gains the popular fancy.

"Peggy from Paris" is not altogether without plot, as are some musical comedies. Indeed, the story is quite an interesting one, and would prove attractive, even without music. The character types in this piece are many and varied. There are country folk and city folk, the glibest rustics finding the ways of the city strange and mysterious. Theatrical people, society leaders, and men about town, all make up the cast, and add to the types. Each character is caricatured by clever George Ade, who has given to this piece some of his brightest wit and humor. The piece will be handsomely mounted, and a complete production, in every way, is promised.

"Peaceful Valley." One of Sol Smith Russell's greatest successes at the Academy Thursday night. Edward Saxon, a clever character actor, is playing the role of Hosea Howe, the role created by Sol Smith Russell. "Peaceful Valley" is a play of common sense and simplicity. It is a clean, healthy, nature play, such as has always most appealed to the public. "Peaceful Valley" is appealing in its very title. The play is a picture of New England life in the bosom of the White Mountains. Here live a people of simple habits and quiet ways. Hosea Howe, when the play opens, is serving as a waiter in a little hotel on the crest of the mountains. He is a coltish man of the type that is fighting hard for an education, and does not deem any honest work too humble for him to undertake. He gives to one of the pompous guests a little explanation as to specimen of fish that is immensely enjoyed by the audience. Hosea Howe is one of those slow-going plodders, slow but sure, and everything he does is done quietly. In the climax of the first act he resents an insult by tossing the man over the side of the mountain, but he does it without any more to do than if he had thrown a pebble into the valley below, where nestles his own humble home. Hosea Howe, after performing this little feat, turns to the others on the stage, and says, "He has just dropped in on me."

"Way Down East." "Way Down East" has made a fortune for its owners. During the past years the piece has been presented in nearly every city in the United States and Canada. The playgoing public seem never to tire of it, and the piece no doubt still has a long life before it.

Nearly every one is familiar with the story of the play. The wrongs of Anna Moore have caused the shedding of many tears by those who are easily affected, and who really love to go to the theatre and have a good cry. All of the characters are familiar, and each one, as he or she appears on the stage, is welcomed as an old friend. An excellent cast and an elaborate production is promised this year. This good old picture of New England life, with its inoffensive comedy and homely sentiment, will be seen at the Academy Friday and Saturday, with matinee the latter day.

## New Melodrama at Bijou.

It was left for Charles E. Blaney to

discover the possibilities of the great jail-breaker, Cunning, as a star, and to have a play written for him that would serve to display his adeptness in getting out of handcuffs and prison cells. This has been done in "From Sing Sing to Liberty," which was written by the actor-author, Harry Clay Blaney. It is said to have quite an interest as a play, while giving full scope for the mystifying feats of Cunning. The play is said to be a decided novelty in the melodrama field. It is in four acts and six scenes, and is mounted with all the carefulness of detail for which Blaney's productions are noted. The cast is said to be an unusual strong one, numbering twenty-five people, and is claimed to be the best ever sent out with an attraction of this kind. Several specialties are introduced during the action of the play.

Cunning laughs at prison locks, handcuffs, and chains, and claims that nothing can hold him for any length of time. He invites the police to furnish the handcuffs to be used on the stage in the prison scene. He claims to be able to demonstrate to their satisfaction that he can get out of any pair of handcuffs that they may place upon him, and no doubt, while here, will give a private exhibition to convince them of this as did Houdini.

"From Sing Sing to Liberty" bears the Blaney trademark all over it, and therefore lovers of melodrama know what to expect. Blaney never does anything half way. This melodrama will be at the Bijou all this week.

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And All the Original Scenic and Electrical Detail

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## Academy, Tuesday, October 8th.

Charles Frohman

WILL PRESENT

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MISS PERCY HASWELL,  
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SARAH PADDEN,  
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## Academy, Fri. and Sat., Oct. 11-12

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